



AQ-3 amplifier

User Manual v1.0



EM Acoustics Loudspeakers

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DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY

We, the manufacturer:

**MC² Audio,
Units 6-8 Kingsgate
Heathpark Industrial Estate
Honiton, Devon
England
EX14 1YG**

acknowledge our responsibility that the following products:

Kind of equipment: Audio amplifier
Commodity Code: 8518408990
Type Designation: E4-75 and all OEM variants of this model

are manufactured:

in accordance with EMC Directive 2004/108/EC,
in compliance with the following norm(s) or document(s):
Technical Regulations: EN55103-1:1996, EN55103-2:1996

and

in accordance with the Low Voltage Directive 2006/95/EC,
in compliance with the following norm(s) or document(s):
Technical Regulations: EN/IEC60065:2002 7th Edition

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Alex Cooper", written over a horizontal dotted line.

Name: Alex Cooper
Position: Research and Development Manager
Date: January 2012

THANKS

Thank you for choosing an AQ-3 amplifier for your application. Please spend a little time reading through this manual, so that you obtain the best possible performance from the unit and become familiar with its operating requirements.

The AQ-3 is designed and manufactured by MC² Audio in the UK. All MC² products are carefully designed and engineered for cutting-edge performance and world-class reliability. If you would like further information about your AQ-10 or any other EM Acoustics product, please contact us.

We wish you many years of service from this amplifier and look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

INTRODUCTION

The AQ-3 is the smaller four channel amplifier within the EM Acoustics range. It has been designed to meet demands for higher power and increased efficiency, whilst still maintaining the renowned sonic qualities and unsurpassed reliability associated with our loudspeaker products.

Your AQ-3 power amplifier utilises proprietary designed load impedance sensing output circuitry, which enables the amplifier to drive the high voltage swings associated with speaker impedances of 8 ohms and above, but automatically switches to a high current/medium voltage output required by 4 ohm loads.

Fan speed is varied as required to keep the amplifier within its temperature limits. Signal limiters are included to protect speakers from clipped signals.

The amplifier includes full DC and short circuit protection to ensure trouble-free service even in 'harsher' environments.

Power Reduction Circuit (PRC) and Impedance Sensing

There are two PRC circuits in the AQ-3: one for channels A & B and one for channels B & C. When the amplifier is to be used with 4 ohm speakers (or bridged mono into 8 ohms) or if you want to reduce the maximum power to protect the speakers, then the PRC can be selected via the switches on the rear panel.

Whenever an audio signal of medium amplitude is present on any channel and, if the speaker impedance on any of the channels is less than 5.5 ohms, then the **Automatic Impedance Sensing** circuit will set that pair of channels to the 4 ohm position.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS



CAUTION: RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK.
DO NOT OPEN



The lightning flash with arrowhead symbol within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the product's enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock to persons.

WARNING:
earthing



The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the appliance.

ected to a t

WARNING: To prevent injury, this apparatus must be securely attached to the rack in accordance with the installation instructions.

Read these instructions.

Keep these instructions.

Heed all warnings.

Follow all instructions.

Do not use this apparatus near water.

Clean only with a dry cloth.

Do not block any ventilation openings, install in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Do not install near any heat sources, such as radiators, heat registers, stoves or other apparatus (including amplifiers) that produce heat.

Protect the power cord from being walked on or pinched particularly at plugs, convenience receptacles and the point where they exit from the apparatus.

The mains circuit breaker shall remain readily accessible.

Only use attachments/accessories specified by the manufacturer.

Use only with the cart, tripod, bracket or table specified by the manufacturer, or sold with the apparatus. When a cart is used, use caution when moving the cart/apparatus combination to avoid injury from a tip over.

Disconnect this apparatus during lightning storms or when unused for a long period of time.

Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel. Servicing is required when the apparatus has been damaged in any way, such as if the power-supply cord or plug is damaged, liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the apparatus, the apparatus has been exposed to rain or moisture, does not operate normally, or has been dropped.

Do not expose this equipment to dripping or splashing and ensure that no objects filled with liquids, such as vases, are placed on the equipment.

To completely disconnect this equipment from the AC mains, disconnect the power cord from the mains circuit breaker.

Where the amplifier is mounted in a rack and permanently connected to the mains, then the rack should be installed with a readily accessible connector or an ALL POLE circuit breaker with 3mm breaking distances.

This unit is fitted with a 3-wire power cord. For safety reasons, THE EARTH LEAD SHOULD NOT BE DISCONNECTED IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.

The cooling fans suck cool air in through the front and blow hot air out at the rear of the unit through the ventilating grills. The front and rear of the amplifier should have free exposure to the air (i.e. in a rack leave the front and rear doors off), with 2cm air gap at the sides and top. IF AIR IS NOT ALLOWED TO ESCAPE FROM THE REAR, OVER-HEATING WILL OCCUR. Take care when mounting other equipment in the same rack.

The mains switch on the amplifiers only switches one pole of the mains supply, therefore for units with a detachable cord to be fully disconnected from the mains, the mains disconnect device (ie mains plug or mains coupler) should remain readily operable. For units with a fixed mains lead the external all pole circuit breaker with 3mm breaking distances is the disconnect device and therefore the installation of the amplifier shall be carried out in accordance with all the applicable installation rules.

INSTRUCTIONS DE SECURITE IMPORTANTES



**ATTENTION: RISQUE DE CHOC ELECTRIQUE.
NE PAS OUVRIR**



Le symbole représentant un éclair fléché dans un triangle équilatéral a pour but d'alerter l'utilisateur de la présence d'une "tension dangereuse" non isolée à l'intérieur du boîtier, pouvant être d'une force suffisante pour constituer un risque d'électrocution.



Le point d'exclamation dans un triangle équilatéral a pour but d'alerter l'utilisateur de la présence d'instructions importantes concernant le fonctionnement et la maintenance, dans la documentation qui accompagne l'appareil.

ATTENTION: Appareils de construction de CLASSE I doit être raccordé au réseau électrique via une prise de courant reliée à la terre.

ATTENTION: Pour éviter toute blessure, cet appareil doit être solidement fixé à la torture, conformément aux instructions d'installation.

Lisez ces instructions.

Gardez ces instructions.

Faites attention à tous les avertissements.

Suivez toutes les instructions.

N'utilisez pas cet appareil près de l'eau.

Faites le ménage seulement avec un tissu sec.

Ne bloquez pas d'ouvertures de ventilation, installez conformément aux instructions du fabricant.

N'installez près d'aucunes sources de chaleur, comme les radiateurs, les registres de chaleur, les cuisinières ou d'autre appareil (en incluant des amplificateurs) qui produisent la chaleur.

Protégez la corde de pouvoir d'être marché sur ou pincé particulièrement aux prises de courant, les réceptacles d'avantage et la pinte où ils sortent de l'appareil.

Le disjoncteur de conduite principale restera sans hésiter accessible.

Utilisez seulement des attachements/accessoires spécifiés par le fabricant.

Utilisez seulement avec le chariot, le trépied, la parenthèse ou la table spécifiée par le fabricant, ou vendu avec l'appareil. Quand un chariot est utilisé, utilisez la prudence en déplaçant la combinaison de chariot/appareil pour éviter la blessure d'un bout.

Débranchez cet appareil pendant les tempêtes de foudre ou quand neuf pendant un long terme de temps.

Renvoyez tout l'entretien au personnel de service qualifié. L'entretien est exigé quand l'appareil a été nui de toute façon, comme si la corde de pouvoir provision ou la prise de courant sont nuis, le liquide a été déversé ou les objets sont tombés dans l'appareil,

l'appareil a été exposé pour pleuvoir ou l'humidité, n'opère pas normalement, ou a été baissé.

N'exposez pas cet équipement au fait de tomber goutte à goutte ou au fait d'éclabousser et garantisiez qu'aucun objet rempli des liquides, comme les vases, n'est placé sur l'équipement.

Pour complètement débrancher cet équipement de la conduite principale de courant alternatif, débranchez la corde de pouvoir du disjoncteur de conduite principale.

Où l'amplificateur est monté dans un égouttoir et en permanence raccordé à la conduite principale, alors l'égouttoir devrait être installé avec un connecteur sans hésiter accessible ou TOUT le disjoncteur de PÔLE avec 3 millimètres cassant des distances.

Cette unité est correspondue avec une corde de pouvoir de 3 fils. Pour les raisons de sécurité, l'AVANCE DE TERRE NE DEVRAIT ÊTRE DÉBRANCHÉE DANS AUCUNE CIRCONSTANCE.

Les ventilateurs englobent l'air frais par le front et soufflent l'air chaud à l'arrière de l'unité par les grilles aérants. Le front et l'arrière de l'amplificateur devraient avoir l'exposition libre à l'air (c'est-à-dire dans un égouttoir omettent les portes de devant et arrière), avec le trou aérien de 2 centimètres aux côtés et au haut. Si on NE PERMET PAS QUE D'AIR S'ÉCHAPPE DE L'ARRIÈRE, LE FAIT DE SURCHAUFFER SE PRODUIRA. Faites attention en montant d'autre équipement dans le même égouttoir.

L'interrupteur principal sur les amplificateurs ne coupe qu'un pôle de l'alimentation secteur. le cordon IEC permettra de déconnecter l'appareil de l'alimentation secteur, pour cette raison l'accès à ces fiches (fiche mâle ou femelle) doit être facilités. Pour les appareils avec un câble d'alimentation fixe sans fiche secteur, le dispositif de coupure omnipolaire ayant une distance d'ouverture de contact d'au moins 3mm, sera le dispositif permettant la déconnexion complète de l'appareil.

Pour cette raison l'installation et le raccordement de l'amplificateur devra ce faire conformément au réglementation en vigueur.

Installing Your Amplifier: Electrical Considerations

The amplifier has been manufactured to comply with your local power supply requirements, but before connecting the unit to the supply, ensure that the voltage (printed on the rear panel) is correct.

The amplifier is fitted with either a 100/120V or 220/240V tapped transformer according to customer requirements.

Make sure power outlets conform to the power requirements listed on the back of the unit. Damage caused by connecting to improper AC voltage is not covered by the warranty.

SAFETY WARNING

Where a MAINS plug or appliance coupler is used as the disconnect device, it should remain readily operable.

Where the amplifier is mounted in a rack and permanently connected to the mains, then the rack should be installed with a readily accessible connector or an ALL POLE circuit breaker with 3mm breaking distances.

This unit is fitted with a 3-wire power cord.
For safety reasons,

THE EARTH LEAD SHOULD NOT BE DISCONNECTED IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.

If ground loops are encountered consult the section on connecting your amplifier on page 11.

The wiring colours are:

230V AREAS: EARTH = GREEN AND YELLOW
NEUTRAL = BLUE
LIVE = BROWN

120V AREAS: EARTH = GREEN
NEUTRAL = WHITE
LIVE = BLACK

DO NOT USE THE UNIT IF THE ELECTRICAL POWER CORD IS FRAYED OR BROKEN. The power supply cords should be routed so that they are not likely to be walked on or pinched by items placed upon or against them, paying particular attention to cords and plugs and the point where they exit from the appliance.

ALWAYS OPERATE THE UNIT WITH THE AC GROUND WIRE CONNECTED TO THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM GROUND. Precautions should be taken so that the means of grounding of a piece of equipment is not defeated.

DO NOT REMOVE THE LID. Removing the lid will expose you to potentially dangerous voltages. There are no user serviceable parts inside.

ESD strikes to the unit's front panel that are in excess of 4000 volts may cause disturbance to the status LEDs on the unit. This will not affect audio performance and will be corrected on the next power up cycle.

Installing Your Amplifier: Mechanical Considerations

To ensure that this equipment performs to specification, it should be mounted in a suitable rack or enclosure as described below. Like all high power amplifiers, it should be kept away from other equipment which is sensitive to magnetic fields. Also, this amplifier may suffer a substantial reduction in performance if it is subjected to, or mounted close to equipment which radiates high RF fields.

Warning: To prevent injury, this apparatus must be securely attached to the rack in accordance with the installation instructions

When mounting the amplifier in a rack or enclosure:

Be aware that...

THE FRONT PANEL IS NOT CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING THE UNIT ON ITS OWN.

Make sure that the rear of the unit is adequately supported. The brackets which are supplied fit standard 19 inch (483mm) rack mounting systems.

ENSURE THERE IS ADEQUATE VENTILATION.

The cooling fans suck cool air in through the front and blow hot air out at the rear of the unit through the ventilating grills. The front and rear of the amplifier should have free exposure to the air (i.e. in a rack leave the front & rear doors off), with 2cm air gap at the sides.

IF AIR IS NOT ALLOWED TO ESCAPE FROM THE REAR, OVER-HEATING WILL OCCUR.

Take care when mounting other equipment in the same rack.

Make sure that the rack unit has a separate earth connection (technical earth).

Please also see the notes regarding maintenance on page 17.

Installing Your Amplifier: RF Emissions

The high frequency resonant converters in the AQ-10 have been designed to have very low radio frequency (RF) emissions; however even these low level emissions can cause interference with other equipment.

In order for this to be minimised, the amplifier should be mounted in a metal rack enclosure, which should have a separate (technical) Earth. Alternatively a separate earth should be attached to the amplifier at the rear rack mounting bracket.

Connecting To Your Amplifier: Inputs

The inputs are made via 3-pin XLR connectors, which are electronically balanced and should be connected via a high grade twin core screened cable, as follows:



PIN1: Screen (see note)

PIN2: Hot (signal +)

PIN3: Cold (signal -)

The amplifier is designed to operate with fully balanced equipment and ground loops or loss of performance may be experienced if connected to unbalanced sources. If it is unavoidable however, the following wiring should be used. The cable should still be twin core plus screen.

PIN1: Screen - connected to the chassis of the unbalanced equipment - or left disconnected at the unbalanced end.

PIN2: Hot (signal +)

PIN3: Cold (ground 0V)

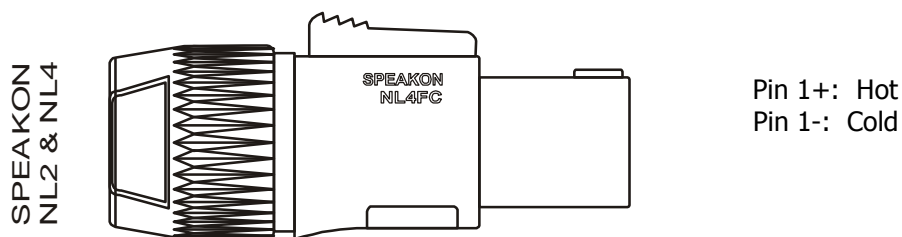
NOTE: This amplifier is wired to the latest industry recommendations. PIN1 is connected directly to the chassis/mains earth. If ground loops (mains hum) are encountered remove the screen connection from the other end of the cable and leave it open circuit. If problems persist, consult your dealer/supplier.

DO NOT TAMPER WITH OR ALTER ANY GROUND (EARTH) CONNECTIONS INSIDE THE AMPLIFIER.

For bridged operation input should be made to channel A (or C) only and the rear panel switch set for bridged mode for the appropriate pair of channels.

Connecting To Your Amplifier: Speaker Outputs

The speaker outputs are via Neutrik SpeakON™ connectors. 2 pole (NL2FC) or 4 pole (NL4FC) connectors can be used.



Additionally the Channel A SpeakON™ connector carries Channel B output on Pins +2 & -2 to allow easy bi-amping or bridged operation using a single NL4 connector. Similarly, Channel C's SpeakON™ connector also carries Channel D output.

Output Connector A

Pin 2+: Hot Ch. B

Pin 2-: Cold Ch. B

Output Connector C

Pin 2+: Hot Ch. D

Pin 2-: Cold Ch. D

For bi-amped operation, connect as above.

There must be no shared connections between channels.

Negative output terminals must not be joined together as they are not both at ground potential. Connecting them together will damage the amplifier and void the warranty!

As the currents involved are very high, and to ensure best performance, the speaker cables should be kept as short as possible and conform to the following minimum requirements:

AQ-3, 14A into 4 Ohm speaker loads

Do not connect the inputs/outputs to any other voltage source such as a battery, mains source or power supply, regardless of whether the amplifier is turned on or off.

Do not run the output of any amplifier channel back into another channel's input and do not parallel or series-connect an amplifier output with any other amplifier output.

Connecting To Your Amplifier: Bridged (Mono) Operation

Pairs of channels may be independently bridged – channel pair A&B, and/or channel pair C&D.

The method is the same for both channel pairs:

Supply signal to Channel A or C input only and push in the appropriate rear panel switch marked "BRG A&B" or "BRG C&D".

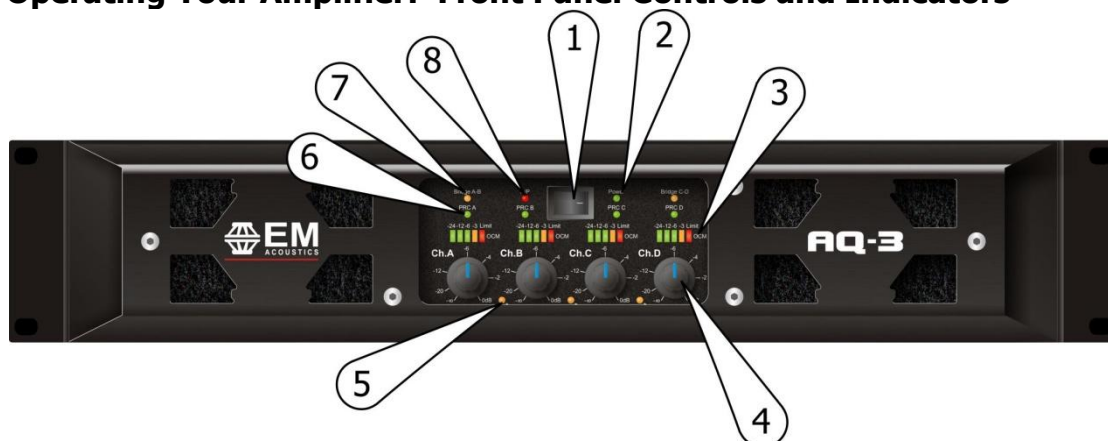
Use Channel A or C's Output SpeakON™ connector and connect as follows:

Pin 2+: Hot
Pin 1-: Cold

When operating in bridged mode, the minimum impedances are doubled.

The minimum load in bridged mode is 8 ohms.

Operating Your Amplifier: Front Panel Controls and Indicators



1: Power Switch: This single pole switch turns the amplifier fully off (but does NOT isolate it from the mains supply).

2: Power LED: This indicates when the amplifier is active. This does NOT indicate the presence of a mains supply when the power switch is OFF.

3: Signal Meter: These LED bar graphs show instantaneous level on each channel to indicate proximity to the limiter threshold. Note that if the PRC system is in operation on any channel, this will affect the readout shown on the respective meter.

The red LED in the meter will illuminate when the limiter threshold has been reached and limiting is occurring.

4: Attenuation Controls: These are analogue controls allowing precise level settings. Note that in bridged (mono) mode some controls may be inactive.

5: Link LED: This indicates if the channel is linked to its immediate neighbour. The link switches are on the rear panel – see page 15 for details.

6: PRC LED: This illuminates if the Power Reduction Control has been enabled on the respective channel. PRC switches are on the rear panel – see page 15 for details.

7: Bridge LED: This illuminates when a channel pair have been switched into bridged (mono) mode (channel A+B or C+D). Note that the partner channel's LEDs and controls are disabled when a pair of channels are bridged. Bridge switches are on the rear panel – see page 15 for details of how to connect your speaker to a bridged channel pair.

8: A/P (Auto Protect) LED: If a condition exists, either internally or externally, that could cause damage to either the amplifier or the speakers, the protection circuit will disengage the outputs and the A/P LED will illuminate. The amplifier will continue to be monitored and depending on the type of fault, will either reset after the fault has cleared or require manual resetting by switching off at the mains switch and then on again after a few seconds.

Typical conditions that could cause the protection to be triggered include very high frequency or subsonic input signals, DC in the inputs, short-circuited outputs, or internal high temperatures.

Temperature related faults will reset if the unit has cooled sufficiently.

Output short circuits will require manual reset after clearing the fault.

Operating Your Amplifier: Notes and Switching On

Read all documentation before operating your equipment and retain all documentation for future reference.

Do not spill water or other liquids into or on the unit and do not operate the unit while standing in liquid.

Do not block fan intake or rear ventilation outlets or operate the unit in an environment that could impede the free flow of air around the unit.

If the unit is used in an extremely dusty or smoky environment, it should be cleaned of any collected debris at regular intervals. Please also see the notes regarding maintenance on page 17.

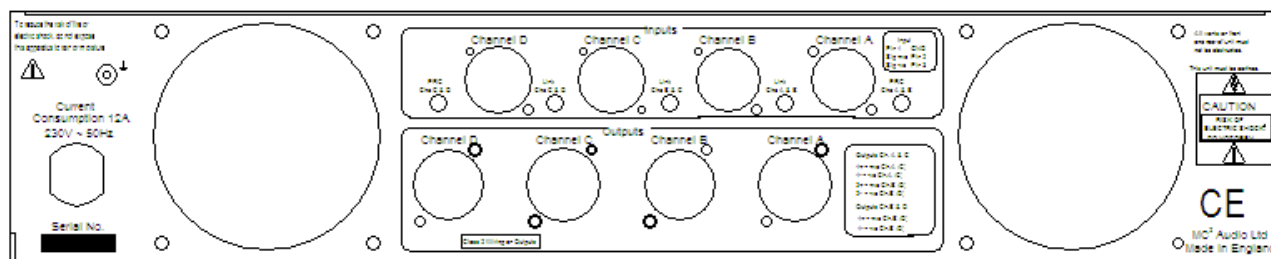
It is important that the power output of your amplifier is matched to the power handling capacity of your loudspeaker. If not, damage to the loudspeaker could occur.

Switching On...

At 'switch-on' the protection circuit will initially activate whilst the circuits stabilise, indicated by the red A/P LED illuminating, in addition to various other LEDs. After a few seconds the red A/P LED will extinguish indicating a satisfactory working condition.

Other LEDs may remain illuminated depending upon rear panel switch settings and input connections. If the A/P LED does not extinguish after 5 seconds the unit may be faulty or some external connections may be incorrect or inappropriate. If this occurs you should power down the unit and remove all external connections (except for the mains power supply) and repeat the power up sequence. If the problem persists please contact us – details on page 17.

Operating Your Amplifier: Rear Panel Sockets and Switches



- Channel A output SpeakON™ socket: Normal output is on pins 1+ hot, 1- cold. Channel B's output is also wired to this socket to enable a single NL4 to provide both channels and to facilitate easier wiring in bridged mode. Channel B is wired pins 2+ hot, 2- cold.

Similarly channel C's output SpeakON™ socket carries Channel D's output. Check the table on the rear panel for details.

- Input XLR sockets: Connect signal inputs to these sockets, wired pin 2 hot, 3 cold, 1 ground. For sensitivity and impedance of these inputs, please see the specifications on page **Error! Bookmark not defined..**
- Link switch: Press this switch to link the input of the channel to its immediate left. Multiple channels may be linked using these switches so, for example, to link all outputs to input A, press all three switches IN and use input A only. The front panel attenuators will still operate independently when channels are linked.
- Bridged (mono) switch (A+B): Press this switch to run this pair of amplifier channels in bridged mode. To run C+D bridged, press the switch on the far left of the panel, beside channel D's input XLR.
- Fan outlet: The variable speed fans suck air in through the front vents and out through the back of the amplifier. Please see maintenance on page 17 for recommendations on how to clean this and the front foam sections.

WIRING CONVENTIONS

The speaker outputs are via Neutrik Speakon connectors: 2-pole (NL2FC) or 4-pole (NL4FC) connectors can be used. Terminations (all connectors) are as follows:-

Pin +1 = +ve signal output

Pin -1 = -ve signal output

For ease of installing bi-amped or bridged speakers, output connector A also carries output B and output connector C also carries output D. The terminations are as follows:

Output connector A

A

Pin +1 = +ve channel A

Pin -1 = -ve channel

Pin +2 = +ve channel B

Pin -2 = -ve channel

B

<u>Output connector C</u>	Pin +1 = +ve channel C	Pin -1 = -ve channel C
	Pin +2 = +ve channel D	Pin -2 = -ve channel D

For **bi-amped operation** connect as above.

For **bridged operation** connect as follows:

<u>Channels A & B</u>	+ve = channel B +ve (pin +1 on connector B or +2 on connector A)
	-ve = channel A -ve (pin -1 on connector A)

<u>Channels C & D</u>	+ve = channel D +ve (pin +1 on connector D or +2 on connector C)
	-ve = channel C -ve (pin -1 on connector C)

Note: Both level controls must be set to the same position.

When operating in bridged mode, the minimum impedances are 8 ohms.

Note:

1. Negative (-ve) output terminals must not be joined together, since they are not both at 0V.
2. Because the currents involved are very high, the speaker cables should conform to the following minimum requirements, otherwise the losses will cause the cables to get hot and audio power will be reduced:

AQ-3 - 14A into 4 ohm speaker loads.

3. Do not connect the inputs/outputs to any other voltage source such as a battery, mains source or power supply, regardless of whether the amplifier is turned on or off.
3. Do not run the output of any amplifier channel back into another channel's input and do not parallel or series-connect an amplifier output with any other amplifier output.

Looking After Your Amplifier: Maintenance

These maintenance instructions are for use by qualified personnel only. Before any routine maintenance, please ensure that your amplifier is disconnected from the mains supply!

The filter behind the air intake apertures on the front of your amplifier should be cleaned or replaced periodically, e.g. 3-6 months. (Filters in amplifiers located in more 'dirty' atmospheres may require more frequent maintenance).

The filter should be 'dry' cleaned, using a vacuum cleaner preferably. Running the unit without a filter is not recommended unless it is within a 'clean room'. Replacement filter material is available.

If the fan vents on the rear of the amplifier develop a build-up of dust/debris on the finger guards, they can be cleaned with a dry paintbrush and a vacuum cleaner.

The casework of the amplifier may be cleaned with a lightly dampened cloth – do not use any solvents as they will damage the paint finish and could remove printing.

If you have any doubts about carrying out maintenance, please refer to a service engineer or contact your local dealer.

Looking After Your Amplifier: Warranty

Your amplifier is guaranteed for a period of three (3) years from the date of purchase. We hope that it gives you many more years of reliable service than this, but should anything go wrong, please contact us to advise you about repairs or any spares you might require.

Please do not attempt to repair the amplifier yourself as doing so will invalidate the warranty.

Our contact details are:

EM Acoustics Loudspeakers
Building 74
Dunsfold Park
Cranleigh
Surrey
GU6 8TB

Tel: +44(0)1483 266520
Fax: +44(0)1483 275619

email: info@emacoustics.co.uk for general enquiries

Changing the Gain of Your Amplifier: Internal Adjustments!

CAUTION: These servicing instructions are for use by qualified personnel only. Ensure that electrical power to the unit is disconnected before carrying out any maintenance.

GAIN/SENSITIVITY SETTINGS

Gain settings are changed internally by simple jumper links. Four rows of pins marked:- GAIN A, GAIN B, GAIN C and GAIN D - are situated on the input PCB (PCB721). A jumper link sets the gain and the settings are as follows:

Link 1 & 2	gives	32dB gain
Link 3 & 4	gives	26dB gain
Link 4 & 5	gives	approx. 31dB gain = 6dBu/1.5V sensitivity into 4 ohms

NOTE: Factory setting is normally link 1 & 2 = 32dB gain.

Setting higher gain does not change the maximum available power but changes the level of signal input to achieve maximum power. In any case, provided that the input signal is less than 20dBu/7.7V, the built in limiter circuit will prevent distortion within the amplifier.

The gain should be set to match the signal from the source, e.g. mixer, controller, equaliser etc.

Power Requirements

The AQ-3 can be supplied for nominal mains voltages of 115V or 230V.

An internal link can be set to either 100V or 120V for the 115V version, and 220V or 240V for the 230V version. Normally these are set to 120V and 240V respectively.

This amplifier will only operate to its very high specification if it is installed and operated as described in this manual.

Performance Of Your Amplifier: Specifications

Main Specifications

Parameter (Units)	AQ-3
Output Power per channel [Crest Factor = 4.8] (Watts)	
8 Ohms	775
4 Ohms	900
2 Ohms	N/A
Output Power per channel bridged [Crest Factor = 4.8] (Watts)	
8 Ohms	1800
4 Ohms	N/A
THD+N, 4 Ohms (%)	
@1kHz, 1dB below max output power <	0.008
@20Hz - 20kHz, 1dB below max output power <	0.03
Gain Options (dB)	26 / 31 / 32
Sensitivity Options for max power (dBu)	11.0 / 6.0 / 5.0
Sensitivity Options for max power (Volts)	2.7 / 1.5 / 1.4
Frequency Response, +0/-0.3dB (Hz)	20 – 20000
Power Consumption, Nominal @ 240V, 4 Ohms (A)	2.7
Power Consumption, Nominal @ 120V, 4 Ohms (A)	5.4
Dimensions H x W x D (mm)	
Amplifier	88 x 482 x 428
Boxed	230 x 580 x 560
Boxed Shipping – all except UK	250 x 610 x 600
Weight (kgs)	
Amplifier	10.62
Boxed – shipping	12.62

Additional Specifications

Parameter (Units)	AQ-3
Input Impedance – Active Balanced (Ohms)	20k
Input CMRR (dB)	> 60
SNR (dB)	105
Damping Factor, 1kHz, 8 ohms	> 400
Signal Limiters Present	Yes
Protection Present – Short Circuit / DC Output / Temperature	Yes
Mains In-rush Control Present	Yes
Output Power per channel, 8 Ohms (Watts)	
Sine Wave @ 1kHz	725
Continuous music [Crest Factor of 2.8 or 9dB]	750
Continuous music [Crest Factor of 4.8 or 14dB]	775
Continuous music [Crest Factor of 7.8 or 18dB]	825
Output Power per channel, 4 Ohms (Watts)	
Sine Wave @ 1kHz	750
Continuous music [Crest Factor of 2.8 or 9dB]	825
Continuous music [Crest Factor of 4.8 or 14dB]	900
Continuous music [Crest Factor of 7.8 or 18dB]	900
Output Power per channel, 2 Ohms (Watts)	
Sine Wave @ 1kHz	N/A
Continuous music with Crest Factor of 2.8 [9dB]	N/A
Continuous music with Crest Factor of 4.8 [14dB]	N/A
Continuous music with Crest Factor of 7.8 [18dB]	N/A

Due to continuing product improvement the above specifications are subject to change.